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Senate

The Senate met at 9:31 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

PRAYER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Today's prayer will be offered by our guest Chaplain, Father Gregoire J. Fluet, Saint Bridget of Kildare Church, Moodus, CT.

We are pleased to have you with us.

The guest Chaplain, Father Gregoire J. Fluet, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

We read in the Scriptures: "For the Lord gives wisdom; from His mouth comes knowledge and understanding; He stores up sound wisdom for the upright; He is a shield to those who walk in integrity, guarding the path of justice. . . ."—Proverbs 2:6-8.

Lord God, we beseech You to continue to bless our great Nation. You have from the inception of this Nation been its light and blessed it with Your grace and bounty. The men and women of this Senate again seek Your wisdom and guidance as they exercise their call to leadership. Send Your blessing upon them. Allow them to be filled with Your grace and peace. Allow them to continue to be courageous, self-giving, and dedicated to integrity and right. Allow them to recognize Your presence in this Chamber and in their deliberations.

Lord God, allow all of us never to forget that we profess as a people, as a nation, to be under Your guidance and Your love. We thank You for Your gifts, for our Nation, for the boundless blessings You send us each day. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable GEORGE VOINOVICH, a Senator from the State of Ohio, led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows.

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. VOINOVICH). The Senator from Connecticut.

FATHER GREGOIRE J. FLUET

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I am deeply honored this morning to have had Father Gregoire Fluet provide us with the opening prayer in this session of the Senate. It is a particular pleasure because Father Fluet is not just a resident of Connecticut but he is my parish priest. So this morning is a moment of particular pride to welcome him to the Senate.

Father Fluet is someone I have known now for a number of years. We met each other when Father Fluet was the pastor of St. Joseph's Church in North Grosvenordale, CT. I used to, on an annual basis, speak at the communion breakfast of the Knights of Columbus, something which I enjoyed immensely and did for more than 20 years. It was a wonderful experience. The community would get together and Father Fluet would say mass and participate in the breakfast afterwards. We had a wonderful time over many, many years.

Then, to my wonderful surprise, on the retirement of my dear friend and pastor, Father Henry Dziadosz—unfortunately, we just lost Monsignor Dziadosz, a wonderful human being—Father Fluet was assigned to my home parish in East Haddam, CT, a section of Moodus, CT. You have to be very careful; it is really East Haddam. The people of my town would appreciate the distinction I am making here.

Father Fluet is a wonderful man, a spiritual leader; he has counseled and advised me on numerous occasions. He has a wonderful background in history. He is a teacher. He taught at St. Bernard's High School in the diocese of Norwich. He also was a curate at the parish in Lyme, CT. He just received his doctorate in New England studies, the history of New England.

In addition to being a great spiritual leader, he also has a deep interest in the history of this country and particularly the history of New England.

It is truly an honor to welcome my good friend, my pastor, to this wonderful Chamber. We are deeply honored that he is here. We welcome him immensely. We thank him for his wonderful words this morning. I am confident that the parish of Saint Bridget of Kildare, my home parish, is going to be blessed for many years to come with the wonderful spiritual leadership of Father Fluet. He has a wonderful mother who I have gotten to know. She is in a little ill health, but we are praying for her this hour as well. She is a woman of deep, strong French background, a delightful person to be with as well.

Senator LIEBERMAN, who was just here and wanted to stay to greet Father Fluet but had a hearing to run off to, wanted me to express to Father Fluet his deep admiration and respect and extend his words of welcome as well this morning.

With that, Mr. President, I thank the Chair and I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. VOINOVICH. Mr. President, today the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 10:30 a.m. Following morning business, the Senate will resume consideration of the Department of Defense appropriations bill, with Senator REID to be recognized to offer his amendment regarding computers, and following debate on the Reid amendment, Senator BOXER will be recognized to offer an amendment regarding medical privacy.

As a reminder, the Senate will recess from 12:30 p.m. to 2:15 for the weekly

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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